

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

The Regional Library System officially serves Williamsburg and James City County residents as a result of a regional contract implemented in 1977. Two library buildings, in downtown Williamsburg and Norge, are comprise the Regional Library System.

In addition to an extensive collection of hardbound and paperback books, the Library circulates musical and instructional audiotapes and books on tape for adults and children. There are very special collections for adults who are just acquiring reading skills (ABE) and for those to whom English is a second language (ESL). The video collection, on VHS only, contains feature films for adults and children as well as instructional and cultural tapes. A librarian is on duty at all times to assist with reference, research, and information services including interlibrary loans. The book van delivers home service to outlying communities of the County, to the jail, and to nursing homes and the home-bound. The Children's Department conducts story hours each week, many worthwhile programs and classes throughout the year and maintains a special Dial-A-Story by phone. The downtown Arts Center offers a concert series, a free weekly film series, several art exhibits and a variety of events. The 268-seat theater, two meeting rooms, and lobby gallery are available for rental to the general public.

BUDGET SUMMARY

	<u>FY 99 Budget</u>	<u>FY 00 Adopted Plan</u>	<u>FY 00 Adopted</u>
Regional Library System and Arts Center	\$ <u>2,659,514</u>	\$ <u>2,916,125</u>	\$ <u>2,834,639</u>
<u>Total Regional Library System Budget:</u>			
	<u>FY 99 Projected</u>	<u>FY 00 Adopted Plan</u>	<u>FY 00 Adopted</u>
County	\$ 2,659,514	\$ 2,916,125	\$ 2,773,759
City	544,720	544,720	656,761
Other	695,082	713,317	771,886
Total	\$ <u>3,900,086</u>	\$ <u>4,174,162</u>	\$ <u>4,202,406</u>

BUDGET COMMENTS

The proposed funding for the Regional Library System provides for the operation of both the Williamsburg and Norge branches. Beginning in FY 2000, the contract between the City and the County for library services changes. A key provision in the revised contract will bring library employees under the County's personnel and pay plans. The library will also open additional hours. The contract also calls for a one time additional payment from the City of \$60,880 in FY 2000.

After adjusting for the one time City payment, the County contribution to the Library is \$2,773,759. This amount does not fully fund the Library's request; it is \$17,195 short of the \$2,790,954 requested by the Regional Library Board. However, the recommended funding increase of 4.5 percent will allow for additional staff hours required for expanded opening times, adjustments to the Library's compensation plan needed to bring the Library employees

onto the County's pay plan, and an overall merit increase of 4 percent. The \$2,834,639 in the recommended County budget includes a contingency of \$60,880, which is equal to the one-time payment by the City. This amount is included so there will not be a large swing in the County's funding cost from FY 1999 to FY 2000.

The City/County percentage is calculated on the basis of FY 1998 circulation, and results in the following funding percentages: City – 17 percent; County – 83 percent. The City's contribution is based on the minimum required by the current contract. The City may, however, appropriate additional funds.